



HAWAII FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
636 South Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5007
Phone: (808) 723-7102 • Fax: (808) 723-7111

November 19, 2006

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. RM-11348 - Reallocation of 30 MHz Spectrum (747-762/777-792 MHz)
From Commercial Use

Dear Chairman Martin:

The Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association (HFCA) was formed on August 25, 1978, to cultivate a closer fraternal fellowship among the several branches of fire service organizations throughout the State of Hawaii. The HFCA promotes development of the fire service through a progressive program of education, public relations, and research and serves as the recognized organization in areas affecting the safety of life and property. The HFCA takes its role seriously and is concerned with the rising demands on our limited resources. This concern is very great when we reconcile critical interoperable communications requirements with a lack of adequate spectrum resources.

In Hawaii, whether the men and women in public safety are responding to a massive earthquake, a tsunami, terrorist threats or any number of daily emergencies, we must have the tools necessary to enable our response, including an interoperable communications system designed to thorough public safety requirements.

The nation's communications systems supporting public safety can and should be interoperable. First responders know the technology exists for achieving interoperability. As identified after the attacks on the World Trade Center, hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the nation's responders are hampered by a lack of deployed interoperable communications systems. More recently with the earthquake that hit Hawaii, we lost communications capabilities. It is well past time for our nation to have a nationwide, interoperable, wireless, high-speed, broadband network supporting the needs of public safety.

The HFCA supports the concepts put forth in Docket No. RM 11348, specifically the development and deployment of an advanced, nationwide, wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety communications needs, financed and maintained through a public/private partnership. For this purpose, the HFCA supports allocation of an additional 30 MHz of spectrum at 700 MHz to public safety and the creation of a Public Safety Broadband Trust (PSBT).

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin


Page 2

November 19, 2006

The HFCA urges the Commission to support the public safety community on this most important issue.

Quick Congressional action is needed to ensure that this spectrum is not auctioned for purely commercial use, but instead assigned to the Public Safety Broadband Trust to be used for primarily interoperable data communications and public safety operations generally. By this letter, we urge Senator Inouye, Senator Akaka, Representative Abercrombie, and Representative-Elect Hirono to sponsor and support the innovative approach to meeting critical public safety communications needs and to act promptly in making the concepts a reality for public safety. Our nation will be the beneficiary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alvin K. Tomita".

Alvin K. Tomita
President

cc: United States Senator Daniel K. Akaka
United States Senator Daniel K. Inouye
United States Representative Neil Abercrombie
United States Representative-Elect Mazie Hirono